



# Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 17 March 2006

Current  
Nationwide  
Threat Level is

**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF  
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

## Daily Highlights

- The Baltimore Sun reports this summer Maryland power companies contemplate major rate increases and threaten rolling blackouts if lawmakers move to stop them. (See item [3](#))
- California officials and disaster responders are warning northern California residents about potential severe flooding risks should the levee system in the Sacramento area fail. (See item [26](#))

### DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

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## Energy Sector

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *March 16, Boston Globe* — **LNG plan for Boston Harbor is halted.** A controversial proposal to build a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal on Outer Brewster Island in Boston Harbor was shelved on Wednesday, March 15, by a legislative committee. The committee voted to send the proposal to a study committee — a step that effectively derails the proposal for now — but Massachusetts state lawmakers and environmentalists said they expect the measure to resurface in some form. AES Corp. of Virginia proposed to lease the island from the state to build a \$500 million LNG facility there and increase the supply of natural gas to the region. But legislators complained that the bill that would have authorized the lease was tailor-made for the company, written to ensure that only AES would qualify to bid on the lease. And, they said, the bill would

have postponed an environmental review of the project until the 99-year lease was signed, blunting the importance of the review. The environmentalists and harbor advocates balked at the idea of surrendering public parkland to a corporate interest and said the development would destroy the habitat for breeding ibis and harbor seals.

Source: [http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2006/03/16/lng\\_plan\\_for\\_harbor\\_is\\_shelved/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2006/03/16/lng_plan_for_harbor_is_shelved/)

2. *March 16, Associated Press* — **Spill prevented in tanker accident at liquefied gas terminal in Georgia.** A 940-foot ship broke away from its moorings while unloading liquefied natural gas (LNG) at the Southern LNG terminal on Elba Island, though safety measures prevented a gas spill. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is investigating the accident, which shut down the dock for 36 hours at the terminal on the Savannah River about five miles from the city of Savannah, GA. Initial reports said the tanker Golar Freeze, while unloading, was pulled 15 feet from the pier by surge from a passing ship early Tuesday morning, March 14. An emergency disconnect coupling on the terminal unloading arm prevented any release of the liquefied gas or vapors, said Charlie Johnson of the U.S. Coast Guard's Marine Safety Office Savannah. Two tractor tugs quickly stopped the tanker from drifting and returned it to the dock. Source: <http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/mld/ledgerenquirer/news/local/14114197.htm>

3. *March 15, Baltimore Sun* — **For Marylanders, summer could be hot, dark and expensive.** This coming summer could be hot, dark and expensive for Marylanders as the power companies contemplate major rate increases and threaten rolling blackouts if lawmakers move to stop them. The rate caps that came along with deregulation are just about to expire and almost everyone but the power companies is going to get hit. Starting in June, PEPCO residential customers in Maryland will see their rates skyrocket 38.5 percent. That's an average of \$468 a year for the typical home. Baltimore's BGE plans to increase rates 72 percent or an extra \$743 a year. The power companies blame the jump in prices on high fuel costs. But many experts trace it back to electricity deregulation in 1999. Legislators promised competition would lower prices. But there just hasn't been much competition. Source: [http://www.wusatv9.com/news/news\\_article.aspx?storyid=47687](http://www.wusatv9.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=47687)

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## **Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

4. *March 16, Aviation Week* — **Joint Tactical Radio System program to receive changes.** The Department of Defense is now "getting its arms around" the troubled Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS) program, according to Major General Dennis Moran, the vice director for command, control, communications and computers at the Joint Staff. "The program is going to change," said Moran. "Contracts are going to be changed." In response to schedule and cost overruns, the JTRS Joint Program Office was moved from Washington to San Diego in early

2005.

Source: [http://www.aviationnow.com/avnow/news/channel\\_netdefense\\_story.jsp?id=news/JTRS03166.xml](http://www.aviationnow.com/avnow/news/channel_netdefense_story.jsp?id=news/JTRS03166.xml)

5. *March 16, Seattle Post-Intelligencer* — **Potential flaw found in F-22A fighter jets.**

Lockheed Martin Corp.'s F-22A fighter jet may have a structural flaw that would require redesign or major modifications to most of the planes delivered to date, says Bill Young (R-FL), chairman of a House defense panel. The problem involves the aft fuselage, which comes from The Boeing Co., a major partner on the fighter jet. Both the Air Force and Lockheed agree there's a potential flaw that must be investigated.

Source: [http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/business/263175\\_boeinglockheed\\_16.html](http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/business/263175_boeinglockheed_16.html)

6. *March 13, Reuters* — **European defense contractor seeks to break into U.S. defense market.**

The European Aeronautic Defense and Space Company (EADS) is confident it can win all, or a large part, of a multibillion-dollar contract to supply the U.S. Air Force with tanker planes, one of the European aerospace company's co-chiefs said on Monday, March 13. Even a minority share of a tanker deal, potentially worth \$100 billion over 30 years, would be a huge step for EADS, owner of most of plane maker Airbus, as it tries to break into the lucrative U.S. defense market, and mark a victory against U.S. rival Boeing Co.

Source: [http://today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=business&News&storyID=2006-03-13T164722Z\\_01\\_N13205368\\_RTRUKOC\\_0\\_US-ARMS-EADS.xml&archived=False](http://today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=business&News&storyID=2006-03-13T164722Z_01_N13205368_RTRUKOC_0_US-ARMS-EADS.xml&archived=False)

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

7. *March 16, Computing (UK)* — **Bank strikes back at ID thieves and Internet fraud.** Alliance & Leicester has issued security technology to all its one million online banking customers, in a move intended to cut identity theft and Internet fraud. It is the first UK bank to respond on such a large scale to the threat of cyber criminals by providing two-factor authentication technology free of charge to its entire online customer base. The bank will adopt a technology currently used by 15 million Bank of America customers in the U.S.; this will be used alongside traditional password security.

Source: <http://www.computing.co.uk/computing/news/2152053/bank-strikes-back-id-cheats>

8. *March 16, Fine Extra Research (UK)* — **UK bank cracks down on ATM fraud with anti-skimming device.** UK banking group Lloyds TSB is attaching anti-skimming devices to its cash machines across the country in a bid to cut ATM fraud. Research commissioned by the bank and conducted by TNS shows that three quarters of UK adults are concerned about withdrawing money from cash machines in case scammers copy their card details. Around the same number of people say they would feel more confident using a cash machine if it was fitted with an anti-skimming device.

Source: <http://www.finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=15058>

9.

*March 14, Websense Security Labs* — **Phishing alert: CareerBuilder.com.** Websense Security Labs has received reports of a new phishing attack that targets members of CareerBuilder.com. Users receive a spoofed e-mail message, which claims that their account information must be verified due to unauthorized access. The message provides a link to a phishing Website.

Source: <http://www.websensesecuritylabs.com/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=445>

10. *March 14, Websense Security Labs* — **Phishing alert: Qatar National Bank.** Websense Security Labs has received reports of a new phishing attack that targets customers of Qatar National Bank. Users receive a spoofed e-mail message, which claims that their account information needs to be verified due to unauthorized access. The message provides a link to a phishing Website hosted in Lithuania.

Source: <http://www.websensesecuritylabs.com/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=444>

11. *March 14, Websense Security Labs* — **Phishing Alert: Potlatch Federal Credit Union.** Websense Security Labs has received reports of a new phishing attack that targets customers of Potlatch Federal Credit Union. Users receive a spoofed e-mail that claims that their account has been compromised. The spoofed e-mail instructs the user to confirm account information by following a link to a phishing Website. Users who visit this Website are prompted to enter their account password and credit card information.

Source: <http://www.websensesecuritylabs.com/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=443>

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## **Transportation and Border Security Sector**

12. *March 16, Associated Press* — **Cuts critical, arbitration panel is told.** Delta Air Lines Inc. is living off borrowed cash and needs to lower its costs if it wants to avoid the fate of nearly a dozen carriers that have liquidated or been sold after filing for Chapter 11 since the 1980s, a restructuring expert testified Wednesday, March 15. Timothy Coleman of the Blackstone Group LP, Delta's main financial adviser since May 2004, spoke before an arbitration panel. It was the third day of hearings that will decide whether the nation's third-largest carrier can void its contract with its 6,000 pilots so it can impose up to \$325 million in pay and benefit cuts. Coleman said Delta needs to have a cost structure comparable to competitors so it can afford to keep its ticket prices low. He provided a list of 11 airlines that filed for bankruptcy since 1982 but ultimately had to liquidate or be sold. "Delta has to get itself to a point where it's not just relying on outside capital," Coleman said. "The liquidity they have right now is really borrowed liquidity." Meanwhile, the pilots union has said it will strike if its contract is rejected. A walkout would put the Atlanta-based carrier out of business, Delta has said.

Source: <http://news.enquirer.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060316/BIZ01/603160307/1076>

13. *March 16, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-06-474T: Gas Pipeline Safety: Preliminary Observations on the Integrity Management Program and Seven-Year Reassessment Requirement (Testimony).** About a dozen people are killed or injured in natural gas transmission pipeline incidents each year. In an effort to improve upon this safety

record, the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 requires that operators assess pipeline segments in about 20,000 miles of highly populated or frequented areas for safety risks, such as corrosion, welding defects, or incorrect operation. Half of these baseline assessments must be done by December 2007, and the remainder by December 2012. Operators must then repair or replace any defective pipelines, and reassess these pipeline segments for corrosion damage at least every seven years. The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) administers this program, called gas integrity management. This testimony is based on ongoing work for this Subcommittee and for other committees, as required by the 2002 act. The testimony provides preliminary results on the safety effects of (1) PHMSA's gas integrity management program and (2) the requirement that operators reassess their natural gas pipelines at least every seven years. It also discusses how PHMSA has acted to strengthen its enforcement program in response to recommendations Government Accountability Office made in 2004.

Highlights – <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06474thigh.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-474T>

14. *March 16, Associated Press* — **Amtrak trains will be scrutinized for efficiency, chairman says.** Amtrak's chairman on Thursday, March 16, said the railroad will scrutinize all of its long-distance routes this year for efficiency and could scrap, reconfigure or add lines as it tries to prove to Congress and the Bush administration that the rail system is reforming itself. "There's nothing, as far as I'm concerned, that's off the table," David Laney told reporters following an abbreviated Senate hearing on Amtrak's funding request for the 2007 budget year. Amtrak operates 15 long-distance trains over 18,500 route miles in 39 states and Washington, DC. These trains provide the only rail passenger service to 23 states, according to Amtrak statistics. Laney said Amtrak will study every route and decide on how efficient they are. In its 34-year history, Amtrak has never turned a profit. It has debt of more than \$3.5 billion and its operating loss for 2005 topped \$550 million.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/business/20060316-1034-amtrak.html>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

15. *March 16, Federal Times* — **Mail delivery practices unchanged after Supreme Court ruling.** The U.S. Postal Service will not change its mail delivery practices following the February Supreme Court decision that allows a woman to sue the agency after she said she was injured when she tripped and fell over mail left on her porch. Two lower federal courts rejected her claim, ruling the Postal Service had immunity from such citizen suits under a federal law that bars lawsuits against the Postal Service over the "loss, miscarriage or negligent transmission of letters or postal matter." After the ruling, the Postal Service reviewed its regulations regarding when mail and packages can be left outside and decided against changing them. Supervisors will remind letter carriers of the policies during "stand-up talks" — or instructions — at the beginning of each shift. "We do want to take advantage of this opportunity to reinforce our letter carriers' knowledge of the related policies and our interest in carriers using common sense to avoid creating any safety hazard at our customers' homes," Postal Service spokesperson Gerry McKiernan said.
- Source: <http://federaltimes.com/index.php?S=1598147>

## **Agriculture Sector**

16. *March 16, USAgNet* — **Thousands of farm animals parish in Texas fires.** About 10,000 cows and horses were feared dead across the smoking landscape, according to the Texas Animal Health Commission. Governor Rick Perry plans to tour the devastated areas Thursday, March 16. Since December 26, fires have consumed about 3.7 million acres and nearly 400 homes Texas officials said.  
Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.cfm?Id=416&yr=2006>
17. *March 16, Agricultural Research Service* — **Data from tomato studies.** Agricultural Research Service (ARS) work on genes governing tomato ripening and nutritional content are the cornerstone of the Tomato Expression Database (TED), a Cornell University Website funded by ARS and the National Science Foundation (NSF). The site, part of the NSF's ongoing Tomato Genomics Project, gives researchers access to data they can use to develop new theories on tomato genetics. The site comprises four sections. TED provides large-scale tomato gene expression data generated from microarrays — collections of microscopic DNA samples on glass chips that allow scientists to assess thousands of genes in an organism. One section within TED is a tomato microarray data-storage warehouse, which serves as a source of downloadable raw research information. TED's microarray expression database, meanwhile, offers information analyzed in Giovannoni's laboratory on gene expression related to fruit development and ripening. It also contains data that allows for genetic comparisons between normal and mutant tomatoes. The digital expression database presents information that's similar, but based upon expressed tag sequences. These sequences identify genes through expression in RNA that's reflected in DNA. A fourth database, the tomato metabolite database, has information on the chemical composition of tomatoes, along with comparative gene-expression data.  
TED: <http://ted.bti.cornell.edu/>  
Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=1261>
18. *March 15, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources* — **Chronic wasting disease detected on cervid farm.** The state Board of Animal Health announced Wednesday, March 15, that chronic wasting disease (CWD) has been detected in one domestic white-tailed deer on a cervid farm in Lac qui Parle County, which is located in southwestern Minnesota. Immediately, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officials will conduct a local deer survey to determine the number of wild deer in the area. It is expected that not many deer will be found because the area is highly agricultural, with little deer habitat surrounding the farm. DNR will conduct opportunistic sampling of deer in the immediate area now and will conduct intensive hunter-harvested surveillance during the 2006 firearm deer season.  
CWD information: <http://www.cwd-info.org/>  
Source: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/news/releases/index.html?id=1142448612>
19. *March 15, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — **U.S. Department of Agriculture to hold microchip meeting.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will hold a series of informational meetings to discuss the use of



microchipping to identify animals covered under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The first meeting will be held in Riverdale, MD, Tuesday, March 21. Additional meetings will be held in the following locations: Boston, MA, March 29; Baton Rouge, LA, April 4; Springfield, MO, April 18; Centennial, CO, April 25, and San Diego, CA, May 10. The meetings will provide an opportunity to discuss criteria established by the International Standards Organization, which specifies technology for unencrypted chips. Use of this technology allows access to improved contact information during scanning and is consistent with requirements in other countries. APHIS will review all of the information collected at these informational meetings and through the public comment period and determine what if any action can be taken. Under the AWA, APHIS has the authority to regulate most warmblooded animals being used for exhibition, research, and the wholesale pet trade, as well as the transportation of these animals in commerce. Animals are currently identified by tags, tattoos, or collars. Microchipping is also allowed, but must be approved in advance.

Source: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2006/03/petmchip.shtml>

20. *March 15, Associated Press* — **Investigators will dig up infected cow.** The Alabama cow infected with mad cow disease will be exhumed so investigators can get a better idea of its age, the government said Wednesday, March 15. The U.S. department of Agriculture wants to check the cow's teeth, look for ear tags or other identification, and try to determine the breed. The cow's age is important because of safeguards the U.S. created nearly nine years ago to prevent the disease from spreading. A local veterinarian examined the animal's teeth and said it may have been 10 years old or older. The safeguards keep ground-up cattle remains from being added to cattle feed. The practice was common worldwide until it was identified as the culprit of an outbreak of mad cow disease in the United Kingdom blamed for the deaths of 180,000 cattle and more than 150 people. Eating contaminated feed is the only way cattle are believed to get mad cow disease. If the cow was more than nine years old, it could have been exposed to contaminated feed circulating before the feed ban took effect.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory?id=1730270>

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## **Food Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Water Sector**

21. *March 16, Associated Press* — **World Water Forum opens in Mexico.** Delegates from the 121 countries gather Thursday, March 16, for the World Water Forum in Mexico City, Mexico. The goal of the seven-day forum is improving water access for the poor. The World Water Forum will also address harnessing water for growth, providing water more efficiently, using it in a more environmentally conscious manner, and preventing it from causing natural disasters.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/world/3727390.html>

22.

*March 15, Associated Press* — **Governor orders agencies to reduce water usage.** New Mexico state agencies must reduce water use in their buildings under an order issued by Governor Bill Richardson. The governor has also directed a drought task force to make recommendations for the state to conserve water because of extremely dry conditions. The governor issued the directives Tuesday, March 14, as part of an executive order making a drought declaration for the state.

Source: <http://www.krqe.com/expanded.asp?ID=14400>

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## **Public Health Sector**

**23. *March 16, Reuters* — Four nations confirm bird flu.** Four Asian nations confirmed the presence of the H5N1 strain of bird flu on Thursday, March 16. Afghanistan, India, and Myanmar said tests had now confirmed H5N1 caused recent outbreaks in birds, while Malaysia reported two new cases in a wild bird and dead chickens. In India, veterinary workers began culling more than 70,000 birds to try to control the latest outbreak there. Hundreds of people were also tested for fever. Indian health authorities said they were not taking any chances and had sent dozens of medical teams looking for people with flu-like symptoms to every household of the affected area. In Myanmar, officials have slaughtered more than 5,000 birds, temporarily closed poultry markets, and banned bird movements in two bird flu-hit townships, state media said. There is concern that Afghanistan, with weak veterinary and health sectors after decades of war, will struggle to contain an outbreak. Agriculture officials say they don't even have protective suits that should be worn during culling of poultry.

Source: [http://ca.today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=topNews&storyID=2006-03-16T121403Z\\_01\\_N12232814\\_RTRIDST\\_0\\_NEWS-BIRDFLU-COL.XML&archived=False](http://ca.today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=topNews&storyID=2006-03-16T121403Z_01_N12232814_RTRIDST_0_NEWS-BIRDFLU-COL.XML&archived=False)

**24. *March 16, Agence France-Presse* — Bird flu found in stray dog in Azerbaijan.** A strain of the bird flu virus has been found in a stray dog in Azerbaijan, amid fears the disease could be spreading in this former Soviet state. "The virus has been found in a dog ... laboratory analysis is continuing," a statement from an official committee against bird flu said Thursday, March 16, adding that the animal had tested positive for the "A strain" of bird flu. Azerbaijani officials this week announced that bird flu had been detected in three people who died in the southern Salyan region, where poultry flocks have been hit by the virus.

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060316/hl\\_afp/healthfluazerbaijandog\\_060316104729;\\_ylt=Ap8iEjvQCaCTStmshdRdhnmJOrgF;\\_ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNIYwN5bmNhdA--](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060316/hl_afp/healthfluazerbaijandog_060316104729;_ylt=Ap8iEjvQCaCTStmshdRdhnmJOrgF;_ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNIYwN5bmNhdA--)

**25. *March 16, Reuters* — Bangladesh polio case fresh setback to global battle.** Bangladesh has reported its first case of polio in nearly six years, dealing a fresh blow to a global campaign to eradicate the crippling disease, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Thursday, March 16. A nine-year-old girl in the southern Chittagong province was paralyzed in January. Genetic sequencing has confirmed it was the polio virus and that it was closely related to viruses detected in India. She was the first case reported since August 2000 in Bangladesh, which will launch a nationwide polio immunization campaign on April 16. WHO, which launched a worldwide campaign in 1988 to wipe out polio, failed to reach its target of halting



transmission worldwide by the end of 2005. It announced last month that Egypt and Niger were free of endemic polio, leaving only four countries where polio is endemic — Nigeria, India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.

Global Polio Eradication Initiative: <http://www.polioeradication.org/>

Source: [http://today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=healthNews&storyID=2006-03-16T133053Z\\_01\\_L16454421\\_RTRUKOC\\_0\\_US-POLIO-BANGLADESH.xml&archived=False](http://today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=healthNews&storyID=2006-03-16T133053Z_01_L16454421_RTRUKOC_0_US-POLIO-BANGLADESH.xml&archived=False)

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## **Government Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

26. *March 15, Disaster News (MD)* — **California officials and responders warn of potential levee system failure.** State officials and disaster responders are warning northern California residents about potential severe flooding risks should the levee system in the Sacramento area fail. The city sits at the convergence of two large rivers — the American and the Sacramento. Much of the city is only around 28 feet above sea level and a system of levees surrounds many neighborhoods. In addition, upstream on the American River sits the Folsom Dam. The mix produces a possible recipe for a huge disaster in an area with more than 500,000 residents — not to mention the hundreds of thousands more that live downstream on the Sacramento River. In response to this, local and state emergency officials and disaster responders are educating the public on the issues and pressuring the state and federal government to shore up levees that are old or not high enough. There is also a worry about the population increasing in areas at a high risk of total inundation if a flood occurs. "The most pervasive problem we have in California is low levels of flood protection for highly urban areas," said Rod Mayer, acting chief of the Division of Flood Management for the California Department of Water Resources.  
Source: <http://www.disasternews.net/news/news.php?articleid=3087>

27. *March 15, Valley News Dispatch (PA)* — **Pennsylvania conducts weather drills.** Emergency organizations across Pennsylvania will participate in statewide weather emergency tests Thursday and Friday, March 16–17. According to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, the tests are set up every March to assess "all the procedures necessary for an adequate reaction to an emergency situation." The tests will vary by county and municipality.  
Source: [http://pittsburghlive.com/x/tribune-review/trib/newssummary/s\\_433553.html](http://pittsburghlive.com/x/tribune-review/trib/newssummary/s_433553.html)

28. *March 14, News Guard (OR)* — **Shooting drill to be conducted at Oregon school.** The Lincoln County, OR, School District, local police and other public safety agencies will be participating in a coordinated emergency drill at one of Lincoln City's schools for a short time during the week of March 20–24. This drill is the latest in a series of preparedness exercises for emergency responders that include a school bus crash simulation, a simulated armed intruder scenario and a tsunami drill. Agencies scheduled to take part in the drill scenario include the

school district, Lincoln City Police Department, Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital, Pacific West Ambulance, North Lincoln Fire and Rescue, Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, Oregon State Police, Depoe Bay Fire and Rescue and Lincoln County Emergency Services.

Source: [http://www.thenewsguard.com/news/story.cfm?story\\_no=4268](http://www.thenewsguard.com/news/story.cfm?story_no=4268)

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## **Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector**

### **29. *March 16, Security Focus* — Linux kernel IA32 ExecVE local buffer overflow**

**vulnerability.** The Linux kernel is susceptible to a local buffer overflow vulnerability.

Analysis: This issue is due to a race condition in an IA32 emulation system call that leads to a memory copy operation that overflows a previously allocated memory buffer. During the time between two function calls to obtain buffer sizes, there exists a window of opportunity for attackers to alter memory contents. This race condition allows local attackers to overwrite critical kernel memory, facilitating kernel level machine code execution and privilege escalation. On multiprocessor computers, attackers can directly alter the memory contents to exploit this race condition. On uniprocessor computers, a blocking function call allows attackers to exploit the race condition. A complete list of vulnerable products is available in the source advisory.

Solution: Version 2.4.32-pre1 or later of the 2.4 series, and 2.6.7 or later of the 2.6 series of the Linux kernel include a fix for this issue. It should be noted that the 2.4.32-pre1 version is not considered a stable, production quality kernel. Users of kernel series 2.4 may have to wait until proper vendor fixes, or a stable version of the kernel is released. For further solution details:

<http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/14205/solution>

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/14205/references>

### **30. *March 16, Fine Extra Research (UK)* — FaceTime identifies new IM botnet threat.** Research experts at FaceTime Security Labs identified and reported a new threat Thursday, March 16, affecting instant messaging applications. Acting on an anonymous tip, researchers have uncovered two botnet networks that collectively represent up to 150,000 compromised computers, one of which is being used as a vehicle to fraudulently scan desktop and back-end systems to obtain credit card numbers, bank accounts, and personal information, including log-ins and passwords. The operators could potentially launch these scans from any computer on the botnet to mask their actual location. With this new threat, FaceTime has identified more than 40 unique files — many designed to take advantage of social engineering techniques, stored passwords, auto-complete data and vulnerable payment systems.

Source: <http://www.finextra.com/fullpr.asp?id=8488>

### **31. *March 15, Register (UK)* — Slobodan Trojan poses as murder pictures.** E-mails purporting to prove that the recently deceased former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic was killed contain a malicious Trojan, called Dropper-FB. Online security firm BlackSpider estimates that more than 800,000 e-mails containing the new Trojan-downloader were sent to UK businesses before the first anti-virus software firm updated their software early Wednesday morning, March 15.

Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2006/03/15/slobodan\\_trojan/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2006/03/15/slobodan_trojan/)

32. *March 15, Register (UK)* — **Spyware-for-hire couple plead guilty.** An Israeli couple faces prison after confessing to the development and sale of a spyware Trojan horse that helped private investigators snoop on their clients' business competitors. Ruth Brier-Haephraati and Michael Haephraati have entered guilty pleas to industrial espionage charges over the Trojan horse case. Ruth was charged with a litany of offenses including fraud, planting computer viruses, and conspiracy. Her husband, Michael, is charged with aiding and abetting those offenses.  
Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2006/03/15/spyware\\_trojan\\_guilt\\_y\\_plea/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2006/03/15/spyware_trojan_guilt_y_plea/)
33. *March 15, CNET News* — **Debate heats up over Net neutrality.** Speculation that the two biggest phone companies in the country, AT&T and Verizon Communications, are planning to create a tiered Internet system that would require big bandwidth users like Google or Yahoo to pay more for their access has become a hot-button issue in the tech industry. Increasingly, it's also an issue on Capitol Hill, where some lawmakers are developing rules to maintain so-called Net neutrality and prevent the emergence of a tiered system. At the Voice over the Net conference at the San Jose Convention Center on Tuesday, March 14, companies on both sides of the bandwidth aisle debated how much Internet regulation is needed. CEOs from network owners AT&T and Verizon Communications have made comments suggesting they plan to create a system where some companies would have to pay more for their data-intensive use of the Net, which, they argue, slows access for regular customers. On the other side of the debate are companies such as Google, eBay and Yahoo, which are against any companies taking on the role of "IP traffic gatekeeper." They support the idea of federal rules that would further restrict network owners from blocking or restricting traffic.  
Source: [http://news.com.com/Debate+heats+up+over+Net+neutrality/2100-1037\\_3-6049863.html?tag=nl](http://news.com.com/Debate+heats+up+over+Net+neutrality/2100-1037_3-6049863.html?tag=nl)
34. *March 15, CNET News* — **Some BlackBerry users frustrated by outages.** Research In Motion (RIM) confirmed Wednesday, March 15, that several BlackBerry customers' service experienced outages this week due to a software upgrade, which was the feared outcome if RIM had been forced to implement its workaround technology. Several customers with Cingular, T-Mobile, Verizon Wireless and Sprint's Nextel service reported delays, outages and problems with their BlackBerry Internet Service starting early this week and continuing through Wednesday. RIM confirmed that it was responsible for the problems: "Some BlackBerry Internet Service customers experienced intermittent service earlier this week due to an issue that appears to have stemmed from a software upgrade in RIM's infrastructure. Service appears to be operating at normal levels at this time. RIM continues to monitor the infrastructure closely."  
Source: [http://news.com.com/Some+BlackBerry+users+frustrated+by+outages/2100-1041\\_3-6050225.html?tag=nefd.top](http://news.com.com/Some+BlackBerry+users+frustrated+by+outages/2100-1041_3-6050225.html?tag=nefd.top)
35. *March 15, Tech Web* — **Quiz reveals spyware chicanery.** Security vendor SiteAdvisor unveiled an online quiz Wednesday, March 15, that tests consumers' ability to spot sites hosting spyware and adware. Dubbed "Spyware Quiz" by SiteAdvisor, the 12-URL test covers five categories of sites notorious for distributing adware and spyware, including those dedicated to screensavers, smileys (emoticons), games, musical lyrics, and file sharing.  
SiteAdvisor's spyware quiz: [http://www.siteadvisor.com/quizzes/spyware\\_0306.html](http://www.siteadvisor.com/quizzes/spyware_0306.html)  
Source: <http://www.techweb.com/wire/security/181504133.jsessionid=NW>

36. *March 14, Hackers Center* — **Apache Log4net denial-of-service vulnerability.** A vulnerability in Apache Log4net can be exploited to cause a denial-of-service. Analysis: The vulnerability is caused due to an unspecified error in LocalSyslogAppender. This can be exploited to cause memory corruption in an application that uses LocalSyslogAppender and may cause the application to crash. Affected software: Log4net 1.x. Solution: The vulnerability has been fixed in version 1.2.10 in the CVS repositories.  
Source: <http://www.hackerscenter.com/archive/view.asp?id=23587>

### Internet Alert Dashboard

#### DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

**Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.**

**US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis:** US-CERT reports publicly that Microsoft has released updates that address critical vulnerabilities in Microsoft Office and Excel. Exploitation of these vulnerabilities could allow a remote, unauthenticated attacker to execute arbitrary code or cause a denial of service on a vulnerable system. Microsoft Security Bulletin Summary for March 2006 addresses vulnerabilities in Microsoft Office and Excel. Further information is available in the following US-CERT Vulnerability Notes:

VU#339878 – Microsoft Excel malformed parsing format file memory corruption vulnerability Microsoft Excel contains a memory corruption vulnerability. This vulnerability may allow a remote attacker to execute arbitrary code on a vulnerable system.

<http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/339878>

VU#104302 – Microsoft Excel malformed record memory corruption vulnerability Microsoft Excel fails to properly validate records. This vulnerability may allow a remote attacker to execute arbitrary code on a vulnerable system.

<http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/104302>

VU#123222 – Microsoft Excel malformed graphic memory corruption vulnerability Microsoft Excel fails to properly validate graphics. This vulnerability may allow a remote attacker to execute arbitrary code on a vulnerable system.

<http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/123222>

VU#235774 – Microsoft Excel malformed description memory corruption vulnerability Microsoft Excel fails to properly validate the description field. This vulnerability may allow a remote attacker to execute arbitrary code on a vulnerable system.

<http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/235774>

VU#642428 – Microsoft Excel fails to properly perform range validation when parsing document files Microsoft Excel contains an error in range validation, which may allow a remote, unauthenticated attacker to execute arbitrary code on a vulnerable system.

<http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/642428>

VU#682820 – Microsoft Office routing slip buffer overflow Microsoft Office contains a buffer overflow in the parsing of routing slips, which may allow an attacker to execute arbitrary code on a vulnerable system.

<http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/682820>

#### Current Port Attacks

<b>Top 10 Target Ports</b>	1026 (win-rpc), 25 (smtp), 445 (microsoft-ds), 6881 (bittorrent), 139 (netbios-ssn), 55556 (----), 55620 (----), 32459 (----), 80 (www), 65535 (Adoreworm) Source: <a href="http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html">http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html</a> ; Internet Storm Center
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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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## **Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector**

37. *March 16, CBS 13 (CA)* — **San Diego arena evacuated disrupting March Madness.** A suspicious package forced the evacuation of Cox Arena in San Diego just as the March Madness NCAA basketball tournament was set to begin. According to the San Diego Fire department bomb sniffing dogs alerted their handlers of a suspicious item. It started during routine security sweeps being done with explosive sniffing dogs. The dogs apparently hit on a food cart that was supposed to be empty. The cart was outside of the arena itself but inside the gate on a walkway outside. Twelve bomb technicians from the San Diego Fire department went to the arena with a remote controlled robot. The robot collected what looks like cans of soda and the bomb squad blew them up outside the evacuated arena.

Source: [http://www.cbs13.com/topstories/local\\_story\\_075134949.html](http://www.cbs13.com/topstories/local_story_075134949.html)

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## **General Sector**

Nothing to report.

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### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information**

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### **Contact DHS**

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at [nicc@dhs.gov](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov) or (202) 282–9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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